

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a membrane electrode unit for direct methanol fuel cells, comprising an anode gas diffusion substrate, an anode catalyst layer, an ionomer membrane, a cathode catalyst layer and a cathode gas diffusion substrate, wherein the anode catalyst layer is applied to the anode gas diffusion substrate, and the cathode catalyst layer is ~~present applied~~ directly ~~on~~ to the ionomer membrane.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~method membrane-electrode-unit~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anode catalyst layer is applied both to the anode gas diffusion substrate and to the ionomer membrane, and wherein the cathode catalyst layer is ~~present applied~~ directly ~~on~~ to the membrane.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~method membrane-electrode-unit~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~layer-thickness-of-the~~ anode catalyst layer is has a thickness of between 20 and 200 micron and the ~~layer-thickness-of~~ the cathode catalyst layer is has a thickness between 5 and 50 micron.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~method membrane-electrode-unit~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~precious-metal-loading-of-the~~ anode layer has a precious metal loading of is between 0.25 and 6 mg of precious metal/cm² and the ~~precious-metal-loading-of~~ the cathode layer is has a precious metal loading of between 0.1 and 2.5 mg of precious metal /Cm².

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~method membrane-electrode-unit~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein supported or unsupported bi-metallic platinum/ruthenium catalysts are used as anode catalyst.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~method membrane electrode unit~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein supported or unsupported platinum-containing catalysts are used as cathode catalyst.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a membrane electrode unit for direct methanol fuel cells, comprising the steps of

~~the coating of an anode gas diffusion substrate with anode catalyst ink to form a coated anode gas diffusion substrate,~~

~~the drying of the coated anode gas diffusion substrate,~~

~~the coating of an ionomer membrane on one side with cathode catalyst ink,~~

~~the drying of the ionomer membrane coated on one side with the cathode catalyst ink and~~

~~the uniting of the coated anode gas diffusion substrate with the ionomer membrane coated on one side and the with a cathode gas diffusion substrate.~~

8.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A method for the production of a membrane electrode unit for direct methanol fuel cells, comprising the steps:

coating an anode gas diffusion substrate with anode catalyst ink to form a coated anode gas diffusion substrate,

drying the coated anode gas diffusion substrate,

coating an ionomer membrane on a first side thereof with the cathode catalyst ink,

drying the ionomer membrane coated on said first side with the cathode catalyst ink,

coating a second side of the ionomer membrane with anode catalyst ink,

drying the ionomer membrane coated on both sides, and

uniting the coated anode gas diffusion substrate with the ionomer membrane coated on both sides and with the cathode gas diffusion substrate.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising washing of catalyst-coated gas diffusion substrates or the ionomer membrane with water.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising washing of catalyst-coated gas diffusion substrates or the ionomer membrane with water.

13. (New) A direct methanol fuel cell comprising membrane electrode units produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.